

VZCZCXRO6941
OO RUEHDBU RUEHLN RUEHVK RUEHYG
DE RUEHEK #0436 0891144
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 301144Z MAR 06
FM AMEMBASSY BISHKEK
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7051
INFO RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY 0518
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY 1464
RUEHBUL/AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY 0167
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUMICEA/USCENTCOM INTEL CEN MACDILL AFB FL PRIORITY
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO BRUSSELS BE PRIORITY
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE PRIORITY 1843
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 1226
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS PRIORITY
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC PRIORITY

UNCLAS BISHKEK 000436

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KCRM](#) [KCOR](#) [PREL](#) [KDEM](#) [KG](#)
SUBJECT: CENTRAL ELECTION COMMISSION REVOKES REGISTRATION
OF MOB CANDIDATE

REF: BISHKEK 419

¶1. (SBU) On March 30, the Central Election Commission voted 10-0 to revoke the candidate registration of notorious mob boss Ryspek Akmatbayev. Akmatbayev is running for parliament from the Issykul Oblast city of Balikchy. The CEC decision comes only nine days after its March 21 decision to approve Akmatbayev's registration. Following the decision, Akmatbayev's lawyer immediately vowed to challenge the CEC verdict in the courts.

¶2. (SBU) The CEC voted 10-0, with one abstention, to revoke the candidate registration of Kyrgyzstan's most feared organized crime kingpin. In justifying the decision, the CEC claimed that Akmatbayev had not satisfied the five-year residency requirement, which mandates that all parliamentary candidates spend the five years prior to their candidacy living in Kyrgyzstan. The CEC cited as evidence Akmatbayev's own recent admission in court that he had spent most of the past five years hiding out from the Akayev government throughout Central Asia and Europe.

¶3. (SBU) Within hours of the CEC vote, approximately 300 protesters began demonstrating in front of the Balikchy Mayor's office in support of Akmatbayev. According to unconfirmed press reports, Akmatbayev supporters will also demonstrate in front of the Parliament building and White House in Bishkek on March 31.

¶4. (SBU) COMMENT: Akmatbayev will likely take this battle to the courts next, where he will presumably have little problem buying or intimidating a judge into ruling his way. But given the extremely high profile and political significance this case has taken on, there is no telling how it will eventually play out.
YOVANOVITCH